

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Legislative Session
Minutes
July 8, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:01 pm in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Ms. Garrett, Mr. Shattuck, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Moore, Ms. Grannemann, Ms. Macklin, President McCarthy-Johnson and Amanda Ford, Interim Borough Manager. (Ms. Trice and Mayor John Thompson was absent.) A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance led by President McCarthy-Johnson, a moment of silence was observed to remember the mother arrested for the alleged murder of her child.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approving Council Meeting Minutes of 06/03/15 and 06/10/15.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Mr. Shattuck

A vote in favor of the motion, 8 – 0.

2. Approving June 01-30, 2015 Checks Issued.

Regular Disbursements 06/01 – 06/30/15	\$ 1,062,976.78
Payroll Disbursements	\$359,498.72
Payroll Disbursements – Quarterly taxes	0.00
Voided Checks	<u>(\$3,740.52)</u>
Total Disbursement	\$1,418,734.98

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second Ms. Moore

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Shattuck – Yes; Mr. Taiani – No; Ms. Moore – Yes; Ms. Grannemann – Yes; Ms. Garrett – Yes; Ms. Macklin – No; Mr. Lefebvre – Yes; President McCarthy-Johnson – Yes.

A vote in favor of the motion, 6 – 2. Motion carried.

3. Approving Capital Bond in the Par Value of \$3,125,000.00

- Mr. Taiani expressed concerns as to how the Borough will re-pay back this loan. He further expressed not supporting the vote; knowing that the Borough would have to increase the Borough's millage to re-pay this loan.
- Attorney Wayne Gerhold pointed out a typo in the dollar amount of the bond. The true amount should be amended to reflect \$3,140,000.00 and not \$3,125,000.00.
- **President McCarthy-Johnson amended the motion to reflect the true value of the bond in the amount of \$3,140,000.00.**

Moved: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Ms. Macklin

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Garrett – Yes; Mr. Lefebvre - Yes; Ms. Moore - Yes; Ms. Grannemann - Yes; Mr. Shattuck – Yes; Ms. Macklin – Yes; Mr. Taiani – No; President McCarthy-Johnson – Yes.

A vote in favor of the motion, 7 – 1. Motion carried.

- Mr. Shattuck mentioned item #4 was tabled on June 10th 2015 with other items that were tabled for a delayed vote. Mr. Shattuck states that the item #4 was presented before the Planning Commission Committee and has requested a motion to un-table item #4 for a vote.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Moore

All voted in favor to un-table the motion. Motion carried 8 – 0.

4. Approving Resolution No. 15-039 – VPRP Application for 509 Peebles Street.

Moved: Mr. Shattuck

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote in favor of the motion 7 and 1 Abstain.

- President McCarthy-Johnson reads agenda items #5 through #9 were tabled last week and request a motion to un-table items #5 through #9.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. Grannemann

All voted in favor un-table the motion. Motion carried 8 – 0.

5. Approving Resolutions #5 through #9:

Resolution No. 15-044 – Street Closure – Park Avenue Convenience Store

Resolution No. 15-045 – Street Closure – St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church

Resolution No. 15-046 – Street Closure – 900 Block East End Block Party

Resolution No. 15-047 – Street Closure – Blessing of the Animals, Mifflin Avenue Methodist Church

Resolution No. 15-048 – Street Closure – Taylor Way, Entertainment Consortium

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Macklin

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 8 – 0.

10. Approving the amendment of Resolution No. 15-049 – Sewer Repair Project Bid to Soli Construction in the amount of \$22,900.00 to amended amount of \$28,900.00.

- Motion to repeal Resolution No. 15-049, and to approve the Resolution 15-052 – Sewer Repair Project to Soli Construction, Inc. to the amended amount from \$12,500.00 to the correct amount of \$28,900.00.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 8 – 0.

11. Approving Resolution No. 15-050 – 2015 Rock Salt Bid.

Moved: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 8 – 0.

12. Approving Resolution No. 15-051 – Sponsoring Banner – Wilkinsburg School District Pre-K Registration.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Mr. Shattuck

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 8 – 0.

Public Comment

1. **Deborah Glaze** – 1612 Mill Street – Complained of the Tire Walls located on Hunter Street and North Avenue. Resident concern of attracting mosquitos and the West- Nile virus. Requesting that the tires be removed.
2. **Elaine Stephens** – 1328 Laketon Road – Complained of the raccoon epidemic and that the issue has grown out-of-control. Resident reference vacant homes that the raccoons have infested the neighborhood. Complains that neighboring resident have been feeding the raccoons, etc., mentioned that 1324 Laketon Road/Maple Street is now a dumping ground and has caused an eye-sore within the community.
 - Code Enforcement Director – Eric Parrish makes a few comments regarding the raccoon infestation and attempts to assure the resident that he will act promptly to help resolve the raccoon issue.
3. **Stephanie Stephens** – 1328 Laketon Road – Joint complaint with Elaine Stephens regarding the shared-cost with neighbors regarding grass-cutting and tree over growth. Propose a question as to whether or not if another Borough can come in and remove the raccoons.
 - President McCarthy-Johnson provided several resource animal control services to the residents.
4. **Kate Luxemburg** – 432 Rebecca Avenue - Comments on the Wilkinsburg Redevelopment Authority Corporation and its dormant status. Also reference properties listed on the Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority website that are vacant and most likely has no insurance for liability purposes. Ms. Luxemburg questions whether or not if anyone has questioned the Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority if they have insurance on vacant property listed on the website.

- *House donated to the Wilkinsburg Redevelopment Authority located on Franklin Avenue; no one has ever inquired to the WRAC as to whether or not the Authority has insurance on the property. I rather cut the grass than to insure the property.*
5. *Joanne M. Sowell – 1333 Laketon Road – Lives near 1301 Laketon Road - Semple School property.*
- *President McCarthy-Johnson requested that Ms. Sowell live her contact information with the Code Enforcement Director for further assistance.*

OLD BUSINESS

- Transient Retail Vendor Application –
- Interim Borough Manager – Informed the Council that this item was placed on the agenda for the applicant to come and speak before the Council regarding their application process. Applicant is not in attendance and I will not place on the agenda in the future.
- Ms. Grannemann inquires about the discussion that was to take place regarding the application process. President McCarthy-Johnson informed Council that if they wanted to share any comments and/or suggestions to contact the Borough Office and relay the information to the Manager.
- Mr. Taiani – Comments on the lack of signage regarding speed limits throughout the borough and within the school zones. I have requested to have this discussion with the Mayor and have sent three emails to address the Police Department and the Mayor and I have not heard from anyone to date.
- President McCarthy-Johnson – A discussion needs to take place with the Police Department and the Borough Engineer for enforcement. Place this on the agenda for the next meeting to give time for them to respond.
- Mr. Shattuck added that the discussion would also be appropriate for discussion at the Public Safety Committee meeting.
- Mr. Taiani – Noticed on the agenda that another item that was tabled last week to discuss and vote on the dissolution of the Wilkinsburg Redevelopment Authority Corporation; which is missing on the agenda tonight. Therefore, I would like make a motion to remove this discuss off the table to place back on the table to move forward with a vote to dissolve the Wilkinsburg Redevelopment Authority Corporation.

Moved: Mr. Taiani

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote to un-table the motion, 6 – 2.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Moore – Yes; Ms. Grannemann – Yes; President McCarthy-Johnson – No; Mr. Taiani – Yes; Mr. Lefebvre – Yes; Ms. Macklin – No; Ms. Garrett – Yes and Mr. Shattuck – Yes.

President McCarthy-Johnson explains that the vote was already un-tabled. The next vote would be to dis-ban the WRAC, or we can wait until August. President McCarthy-Johnson suggests that Council not dis-ban the WRAC, it should be made inactive and the property needs to be placed on the Borough's insurance.

Mr. Taiani – There are five people who serves no purpose other than the Allegheny Redevelopment Authority already does. There is also a piece of property, where the Chair of this Commission has indicated that she would rather cut the grass than to insure the property. Which makes the Borough legally liable for the property. This Authority holds no merit and does nothing for the Borough.

President McCarthy-Johnson disagrees with Mr. Taiani's comments and feels that the WRAC is worth keeping but having the status to be inactive. Until the Borough is able to explore a joint partnership the RAAC (Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County).

- Further discussion follows regarding the status of the Wilkesburg Redevelopment Authority.
- Current members of the WRAC should officially meet to pass a resolution to transfer the property over to the Borough and to conduct other general business will meet to officially resign their appointment from the Commission.

Motion on the floor to dissolve the Wilkesburg Redevelopment Authority Corporation.

Moved: Mr. Taiani

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

All voted in favor of the motion to dissolve the WRAC; 2 – Yes; and 6 – No.

- Mr. Lefebvre – If this matter is not resolved and all members on the WRAC does not resign by August Council meeting; this vote will be brought up again to dissolve the WRAC.

New Business

1. Designation of Loading Zone for Nancy's East End Restaurant.
- Mr. Shattuck provided some background history to support this request of a Loading Zone of two parking spaces in the municipal lot. And that the signage would be obtained by the requestors indemnifying the Borough for the purchase of the "loading zone" signage.

Motion to approve the two (2) parking spaces to allow for a Loading Zone for Nancy's East End Restaurant and the Bakery next door.

Moved: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Ms. Garrett

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 8 – 0.

- President McCarthy-Johnson comments on the White House Solar Energy Program for low-income residents. We need to consider this program for our residents as well.
- Mr. Taiani – Informed Council that he has submitted three (3) request under the Right-To-Know Law regarding information of the Act 120 Certification of our Officers. To date no information have not been provided. I was hoping that the Mayor be present today so that he can address my request.
- President McCarthy-Johnson – As an FYI all Officers have received the re-certification and have individual cards that were reissued to them all.
- Mr. Taiani – I would like to see all cards in black and white not only for this year, but for the previous year as well.
- President McCarthy-Johnson the certification is renewed every two years.
- Mr. Shattuck – Comments on the Air (B-N-B) Bed and Breakfast Services; that is currently a violation of the zoning ordinances within the Borough. Leasing houses to operate a B-N-B is not permitted. Complaints will be followed up by the Planning Commission.
- Mr. Lefebvre – Council needs to direct the Manager and the Finance Director to moving forward to resolve the purchasing of the police vehicles. Provided to everyone is a print-out to describe some recommendations of options to provide fiscal responsibility to move forward.
 - Finance Director recommends Option #1; other Options were read out loud.
 - Finance Director was able to confirm the forfeiture account (Equity Shares) can be used for police expenditures that are not line item in the budget.
 - Further discussion follows as to what was budgeted and what was not budgeted.

Motion is to approve Option #1 for the purchase of two police vehicles using the Equity Shared Funds.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Grannemann

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Macklin – Yes; Ms. Grannemann – Yes; Ms. Moore – Yes; Mr. Taiani – No; Ms. Garrett – Yes; Mr. Lefebvre – Reluctantly-Yes; Mr. Shattuck – Yes and President McCarthy-Johnson – No, because I do not like Option #1.

- Ms. Moore inquired about the importance of working on the policies to prevent any misuse of inappropriate behavior exploited by any Borough employee toward each other.
- President McCarthy-Johnson – Responded by reiterating that all Council Committees are responsible for coming up with suitable policies to be implemented amongst the employees throughout the Borough.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, President McCarthy-Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
President Council